

John Casper and Elizabeth Roth House
Cambria City Neighborhood
601-601 1/2-603 Chestnut Street
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5760

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOHN CASPER AND ELIZABETH ROTH HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5760

Location: 601-601 1/2-603 Chestnut Street, corner of 6th Avenue, Cambria City, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: Two-story, multi-family wood-frame structure. Horizontal wood siding, side-gable roof. Architraved flat-headed windows throughout. Rectangular plan, 48' x 30'. No. 601, situated on the corner of 6th Ave., is larger than the other two houses. It has a four-bay main facade, while nos. 601-1/2 and 603 are two-bay. All the dwellings have simple wooden porches projecting onto Chestnut Street. No. 601 also has a recessed porch on 6th Ave.

History: In 1871 Henry Abt conveyed this lot to John Casper Roth for \$1,140. The tax assessment for that year records Roth as owning one house on one lot. The 1880 census notes that Casper Roth, a laborer, and his wife, Elizabeth, were German and had four children. They had come to America in 1864. Between 1880 and 1884 Henry Yost owned the property and in 1884 Roth took over the property again. The 1887 city directory notes that Casper Roth who worked at the Cambria Iron Co. lived on Chestnut Street. The 1889 directory notes that eight of the Roth family living at 601 Chestnut Street survived the flood.

Between 1891 and 1895, Roth added two units, 601-1/2 and 603. The 1900 Census records that Elizabeth Roth, a widow aged 56, and five of her children lived at no. 601. A Hungarian family of four and two Hungarian boarders lived at no. 601-1/2. No. 603 was rented to a family of four from Pennsylvania. The men in both households all worked in the steel mill. The house stayed in the Roth family until 1931.

Sources:

Deed Records (34:261, 52:301, 439:432, 998:609), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Johnstown City Directories, 1876, 1889, 1891, 1893, 1895.

Sanborn Map Company, Johnstown, Pennsylvania (New York, The Sanborn Map Co., 1886, 1891, 1911.

Tax assessment records, Johnstown, 16th Ward, 1895 and 1896; Cambria Borough, 1870, 1871, 1872. Tax assessment card, assessment no.86-03-200, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

United States Census, Cambria County, Pa., City of Johnstown, 16th Ward, 1800, 1900.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). An overview of history of the city (HABS No. PA-5669) and an overview of the neighborhoods of Cambria City and Minersville (HABS No. PA-5672) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the downtown and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Bernadette Goslin in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Goslin's and

JOHN CASPER AND ELIZABETH ROTH HOUSE
HABS No. PA-5760 (Page 2)

other project historians' work was published as The Character of a Steel Mill City: Four Historic Neighborhoods of Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1989), edited by Kim E. Wallace. Illustrations in the publication include large format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe and 35 mm photographs taken by the project historians.